



*NEWS
RELEASE*

Central Idaho Dispatch
Salmon - Challis National Forest,
Salmon Field Office, Idaho Falls
District, BLM
1206 S. Challis St.
Salmon, Idaho 83467



~~Public and firefighter safety is the highest priority in fighting all wildland fires.~~

Contact: Kent Fuellenbach (208)756-5145, e-mail kfuellenbach@fs.fed.us

FIRE UPDATE

August 5, 2008

A 200 acre wildfire is burning in the upper Waterfall Creek area about two miles east of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and about five miles north of the Middle Fork Peak Lookout in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. The Waterfall Fire is currently a low intensity fire burning mostly in grass under a ponderosa pine stand. The fire is within the area burned by the Nine Shot Fire of 2005 and has the potential to move uphill toward Ship Island Creek.

The lightning caused Waterfall fire is being managed as a Wildland Fire Use (WFU) fire. WFU fires are managed for resource benefits. These benefits may include the restoration and maintenance of healthy forests, rangelands and wetlands. WFU fires are actively managed to ensure that the fire stays within defined management areas and meets objectives while life and property are protected.

To protect forest visitors from the current fire safety hazards associated with the fire the Waterfall Creek Trail #045 has been closed from the junction with the Middle Fork Trail # 044 near the Big Creek Bridge up to the downstream end of Lower Terrace Lake. The entire Bighorn Crags area remains open to the public. Currently the fire does not pose a hazard for float boat use of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. However, there may be some smoke in the area.

So far this year this fire is the first fire on the Salmon-Challis National Forest to burn an area more than an acre in size. Central Idaho Dispatch has reported 13 fires this season and investigated nine smoke citing.